What: Teaching assistant abroad

Where: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain and Switzerland

When: Starting in September of your 3rd year
British Council Language Assistantship

The Language Assistants programme provides a unique opportunity for UK students and graduates looking to diversify their CVs, gain transferable skills, and become immersed in another culture. With paid placements, and teaching time limited to between 12 and 20 hours a week, being a Language Assistant gives you plenty of time to explore your new host country.

There is no better way to explore and experience the culture of another country than by living in it for a year. Getting paid puts you in a great position to be able to travel, learn and pursue new interests too. In previous years, British Council Language Assistants have used their time abroad to take part in a myriad of exciting opportunities, from starting a small business to appearing on TV!

Your role

Working as a Language Assistant is a unique and fulfilling experience that will vary depending on where you decide to go and who you teach.

Language Assistants work between just 12 to 20 hours a week, giving you the flexibility to make the most out of your international experience whilst also getting paid!

A Language Assistant's role typically includes:

- Supporting the teaching of English in an overseas school or university
- Planning activities and producing resources to help students improve their English
- Introducing UK contemporary culture through classroom and extra-curricular activities
- Supporting the running of international projects and activities.

When you arrive, you may also be invited to take part in an induction course.

Language Assistants will not be required to:

- Teach subjects other than English
- Discipline pupils
- Cover for illness
- Mark work regularly.

Any additional duties you may be asked to carry out should be agreed with you before your arrival at the host institution. You should also expect to receive further training upon arrival.

Eligibility criteria

1. Native-level English

To become a Language Assistant, you must be a native-level English speaker. The British Council assess your English skills by reviewing your written application, your university reference and your educational background. Sometimes, they may test your English through a phone or face-to-face interview.

2. Target language level

Depending on evidence in your application form, for some countries you may be contacted to partake in a short telephone language test to assess your target language level. You will be advised of this in advance and the test should only last a few minutes, consisting of just one or two short questions in your target language.
3. SECONDARY EDUCATION

You should have completed your secondary education in the UK (aged 12-18 in Scotland, 11-18 in the rest of the UK). However, if you were educated outside of the UK but hold a UK passport, you may still be eligible, subject to a test of your knowledge of UK culture. If you were educated in the Republic of Ireland, you will be eligible if you are currently studying at a UK university and hold a UK or EU passport.

UNIVERSITY

You must have passed two years of university-level education by the time you start your assistantship. If this was completed outside of the UK, please contact us before applying.

Dates

Starting in September or October, you can spend six or twelve months as a teaching assistant.

How much?

Unlike many other teach abroad programmes, you do not have to pay a programme fee to work as a language assistant. With over 110 years of experience running the programme, you will also receive support and guidance from the British Council and their partners overseas both before and during your placement.

Before applying however, you should bear in mind that there are a number of costs that you will need to cover yourself. They include:

- Return flights to your destination
- Travel insurance
- Accommodation and utility bills (this will vary from place to place so we recommend you do some research beforehand)
- An International Child Protection Certificate, which costs approximately £60.

For those candidates wishing to apply to China, accommodation is provided and paid for and your flights will also be reimbursed.

Deadline

Deadline to apply is 12 February 2018

Ready to apply?

1. Apply via directly via their website: https://www.britishcouncil.org/language-assistants/become
2. Please note these placements are very popular and you have to submit a strong application. Check out our ‘How to write a killer personal statement for your international experience’ leaflet for excellent tips!

Want more info?

Contact stpabroad@essex.ac.uk | 01206 872208 | Essex Abroad @ Square 2 www.essex.ac.uk/essexabroad